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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR (Kalinin Red Coast)

DATE DISTR 25 Feb. 1952

SUBJECT 1. Practice Ground of Soviet Naval Forces off Pillau (Baltiisk)
 2. Shipping Traffic to and from Pillau (Baltiisk)

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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Practice Ground of the Soviet Naval Forces off Pillau.

1. North of a line from the Pillau Jetty (54°39'18"N/19°51'16"E) to the Baltisk buoy (54°43'34"N/19°39'31"E) is a practice ground of the Soviet Navy. In good weather this area is guarded daily by three Soviet PT boats, while in bad weather vessels of the T 301-type were observed on watch. *
2. Soviet submarines, drifters, and aircraft were observed between 25 and 28 November 1950 holding maneuvers daily, particularly at night. ** the noise of the engines that 20 to 25 planes were aloft each flight but there were no jet fighters. From an airfield north of Pillau, red, white, and green signal flares would be fired and the airplanes would take off in groups and approach the practice ground.
3. On 28 November, at dusk, two Soviet submarines which remained stationary on the surface for about 25 minutes. The submarines were approximately one nautical mile away. They were between 900 and 1,000 tons. They proceeded at a speed of between 12 to 15 knots, and suddenly submerged. They passed the fishing cutter with their snorkels in operation and proceeded under water in a westerly direction.

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Shipping Traffic to and from Pillau.

4. On 26, 27, and 28 November a total of 23 ships entered Pillau. Judging from the draught, they carried cargo. Twenty ships, probably carrying ballast, left Pillau during the same period. Most of the ships came from a northerly direction, skirting the Baltic coast. All the ships obviously approach Pillau on a prescribed course. They head for a point on the line connecting Pillau Light House and Baltisk Buoy, 16 nautical miles from the shore, and then alter their course direct for Pillau from there. ***
5. A powerful searchlight was erected on an artificial elevation between Pillau and Balga (54°33'N/19°59'E). Its light ranges as far as Kahlberg (54°23'N/19°26'18"E).

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- * Comment. This area is marked "No anchorage", "Fishing prohibited" on charts. 25X1
- ** Comment. The drifters are presumably vessels of the type which was built for the U.S.S.R. in the shipyards of the Soviet Zone of Germany on reparation account. 25X1
- *** Comment. Shipping in Pillau, both outgoing and incoming, is remarkably heavy. It is believed that this is not the normal commercial traffic but transport of materials for expansion of Pillau as a naval base. 25X1

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